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Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A lifting device for containers which can be handled by means of container handling equipment, said lifting device comprising:

at least one hydraulic cylinder arranged on a support frame with a piston and a piston rod,

at least two horizontal guiding cross-bars spaced apart from each other, wherein lengthwise displacement of said piston rod is transformed into a synchronous upward and downward movement of said horizontal guiding cross-bars, said horizontal guiding cross-bars connected to a load-receiving device for the container, said horizontal guiding cross-bars being guided on vertical support pillars of the support frame at both ends, for the lifting and lowering of the container,

wherein transformation of the lengthwise displacement of said piston rod into the upward and downward movement of said horizontal guiding cross-bars is accomplished by at least one angle lever pivoted on said support frame, said at least one angle lever comprising two lever arms, one of said lever arms being connected to said piston rod and the other of said lever arms being connected to one of said guiding cross-bars.

2. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 1, including a second angle lever, wherein said one of said lever arms connected to said piston rod is linked by a rod-shaped coupling element to a lever arm of said second angle lever, wherein the other lever arm of said second angle lever is connected to the other one of said horizontal guiding cross-bars, wherein extending and retracting said piston rod causes said horizontal guiding cross-bars to move synchronously in the vertical direction.

3. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 2, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms.

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4. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 3, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms on either side of the middle of the cross-bar.
5. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 4, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars.
6. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 1, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms.
7. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 6, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms on either side of the middle of the cross-bar.
8. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 7, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars.
9. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 2, wherein each of said guiding cross-bars is connected by a coupling rod to one of said lever arms on either side of the middle of the cross-bar.
10. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 9, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars.

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11. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 1, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars.

12. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 2, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars.

13. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 3, including a means for connecting said guiding cross-bars to said load-receiving device, wherein said load-receiving device for the container is suspended in the form of a spreader from said guiding cross-bars.

14. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 1, including deflected cables fastened to said piston rod for transforming the lengthwise displacement into the upward and downward motion, said deflected cables being at least indirectly connected at the other end to said guiding cross-bars, wherein freely turning deflection rollers cause the deflection of said deflected cables.

15. (previously presented) The lifting device per claim 14, wherein the deflection of said deflected cables occurs in the direction vertical to the respective guiding cross-bar.

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